



## Colors of a proud nation

Aspen trees show off their golden splendor while the American flag hangs in glorious red, white and blue from the Osguthorpe Barn north of Park City. Although autumn is officially here, there's no end in sight to the

unseasonably warm temperatures throughout Utah. With September's average temperatures about 4 degrees above normal, the month could end as the fourth warmest on record. See weather map on C8.

*9-27-01 Des News*



th in the past decade has  
a factor in relatively low  
erty rates and relatively  
median incomes, as well  
ne fact that the West's econ-  
in general has been good.  
he Census Bureau figures  
Utah at 11th highest in the  
on for median income and  
in the nation for poverty  
s. While few states have  
erty rates lower than Utah,  
h's poverty rates have  
bed in recent years. Last  
r's results put Utah at 8th in  
nation for income and 49th  
poverty rates.

We've dropped a couple  
ts," Ashdown said.  
ationwide, 31.1 million  
mericans lived in poverty,  
wn from 32.3 million, or 11.8  
cent of the population, in  
9. The median household  
ome was \$42,148. Account-  
for inflation, that is down  
htly from \$42,187 the previ-  
year.

The drop in the poverty rate  
ongs to a larger story of eco-  
nic recovery since the last  
ession," said Daniel Wein-  
g, chief of the bureau's divi-

2000 was \$46,539.

Three-year averages for pov-  
erty across the nation, which  
are used to compare states and  
are taken from larger sample  
sizes, varied from 7.3 percent in  
Maryland to 19.3 percent in  
New Mexico. Utah's three-year  
average was 8.1 percent.

The Census Bureau uses  
three-year averages for state  
poverty rates instead of single-  
year statistics "to improve the  
statistical reliability of the esti-  
mates."

Analysts have cautioned not  
to consider these figures an up-  
to-date barometer of the coun-  
try's financial health.

The figures come from a sur-  
vey of 50,000 households taken  
in March in response to ques-  
tions about income and poverty  
status for 2000. They are part of  
the Current Population Survey  
covering 1998, 1999 and 2000  
and are not part of Census 2000.

Since 1993, Weinberg said,  
poverty rates have declined  
among most racial, ethnic and  
age groups.

The national poverty rate  
among blacks in 2000 was 22.1

cans under 18 was 16.2 percent,  
down for the third straight year,  
the bureau said. Even so, peo-  
ple under 18 still had a higher  
poverty rate than those in any  
other age group.

The poverty threshold differs  
by the size of the household.  
For instance, in 2000, a family  
of four was considered to be  
impoverished if the household  
earned \$17,603 or less a year.

Median income refers to the  
point at which half of house-  
holds earn more and half earn  
less.

Although Utah's poverty rate  
has not gone down in recent  
years, welfare caseloads in  
Utah have declined signifi-  
cantly the past five years, a  
national anti-hunger citizens  
group reported in August.

According to RESULTS, the  
number of Utahns receiving  
temporary government assis-  
tance is down 38 percent since  
welfare reform was enacted in  
August 1996. The number of  
people getting food stamps is  
down 26.1 percent.

**Contributing:** The Associated Press

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Laura Seitz/Deseret News

## A lucky little dog

## CHARITY

*Continued from B1*

Vance said it's too early to  
tell if donations to food drives  
will taper off because people  
are giving to Sept. 11 relief  
efforts instead. Canned food  
from food drives sponsored by  
schools and colleges won't  
start coming in until Novem-  
ber.

"I don't know that we've  
experienced the impact yet,  
but I think we will," Vance  
said. "We are concerned, and  
we are doing all we can to get  
as much food as we can."

Crane said donations to the  
Food and Care Coalition,  
which usually go up in Septem-  
ber, have not increased this  
year.

"Usually our summer  
months are slower and things  
start picking up in September,  
but we haven't seen that this  
year," Crane said. "It could  
have a major impact because  
we're primarily community  
funded."

Unlike other charities that  
rely on federal and state grants  
to operate, the Food and Care  
Coalition runs mainly off dona-  
tions from the community.

Besides providing meals for  
the homeless and poor, the  
nonprofit group has mentoring  
services to help people find

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